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English 1B

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Group Essay

So far throughout this story we know Juliet as an innocent, young, obedient daughter and Capulet as a highly protective, loving father, however, in this scene we are introduced to a different side to both characters. In act three scene five, Shakespeare portrays the angry, abusive side of Capulet, creating contrast towards his character. Juliet as an obeying daughter steps up against her father in this scene, revealing her stronger, more independent side. Through this scene the audience discovers a distinctive side of both Capulet and Juliet helping us understand their relationship better.

At the beginning of this play, we see Capulet as a loving father who wants Juliet to decide her own marriage. But, in this scene, Capulet changes his mind and decides to make Juliet marry Paris. In act 1 scene 2, he says, "My child is yet a stranger in the world~ Ere we may think her ripe to be a bride." (Pg27, Line 8-10) During the conversation between Paris and Capulet, Capulet thinks Juliet is too young to marry and that he wants her to decide on her own marriage. But, in act 3 scene 5, he shouts, "Hang thee young baggage, disobedient wretch!/I’ll tell thee what: get thee to church o' Thursday" (Pg 167 Lines 166-177) He demands Juliet to go to church to marry Paris or else he wont take her as his daughter. In act 1, Capulet cares about Juliet's opinion about her marriage and that he would consider her thoughts but in act 3, Capulet do not care about her opinion and her decision to not marry Paris. Earlier in the scene, the elders seem more pragmatic than young, and by Capulet’s decision of not wanting Juliet to marriage yet seems wise and sensible. But, in this scene, Capulet’s decision change and he shouts at her when she refuses to marry Paris. He loses his temper with Juliet's decision. By this, we can tell that Capulet is not pragmatic and that he is not just a loving father who doesn’t always appreciates his daughter’s decision.

From the beginning of this tragic play, Juliet is presented as an obedient daughter, much like any other woman in a patriarchal society. She does not question her father and always replies to her parents in a mature, respectful almost professional manner. In Act 1 Scene 3, Lady Capulet tells Juliet about her imminent marriage to Paris to which she replies: “It is an honor that I dream not have.” 1.3.71. She is speaking to her mother about how she believes she is too young to marry and matrimony is not something she spends her time thinking of. She could have said this very rudely but no, she said it very respectfully to her mother and referred to it as an “honor” even though it is an honor she does not want. She indirectly tells her mother that she does not want to get married without upsetting her or creating imbalances or expressing her contempt. Even though she does not talk to Capulet before Act 3 Scene 5, we can sense that she would speak to him with equal reverence. In Act 3 Scene 5 she says: “He shall not make me there a joyful bride.” 3.5.122. She tells her mother openly that she does not want to marry Paris rather than before when she addressed the situation so indirectly. She is still the same person as before, because she had an opinion beforehand but now, she is speaking her mind much more openly than before, expressing her discontent and dissatisfaction to marrying Paris. She is not insulting or speaking to her parents rudely though, she still has respect for them, but she is frustrated over her predicament. Juliet is still the same character she used to be before, but with all of the emotions and events swirling around her she cannot keep up her obedient and respectful daughter charade, which clashes with what her parents expect of her.

As both characters, Juliet and Lord Capulet, experience changes in act three scene five, their interaction with each other also dramatically changes and that improves our understanding of them. At the beginning of the play, Juliet first interacts with Lady Capulet to present her opinion on the marriage with Paris. Juliet says, “I’ll look to like, if looking liking move./But no more deep will I endart mine eye/Than your consent gives strength to make it fly.” (1.4 103-105). From those lines we can see how Juliet is very obedient and polite to Lady Capulet and we can infer from that she will be behave the same to Lord Capulet at the beginning. However, as Juliet gradually changes from a child to an adult, her interaction with Lord Capulet changes and she becomes more independent. Unlike at the beginning of the play, Juliet in act three scene five is very independent and she clearly states that “ Now, by Saint Peter’s Church, and Peter too, He shall not make me there a joyful bride!” (3.5 121-122). Although Juliet was saying that to Lady Capulet, it can be inferred that she will react the same to her father. Even with the consequence that Juliet will be disowned by the family and will have nowhere to go she still directly expressed her opinion to Lord Capulet about the marriage with Paris. With the change in Juliet’s interaction with Lord Capulet, it shows us how Juliet is more independent now and how Lord Capulet has also changed to be more protective about his daughter.

In conclusion, through Juliet and Capulet’s changes, Juliet has become a mature, independent and straightforward woman and Capulet has shown his indignant personality, which was hidden to us before. Through these changes their personalities clash thus creating the conflict of Juliet and Paris’s wedding. This leads to Juliet’s disowning and Capulet’s rage. From this, the audience experiences the changing relationship between Capulet and Juliet. Which could possibly lead to Juliet’s suicide at the end of the play.